

many of them settled in Little Saigon in Orange County. In the nearly 5 decades since then, Orange County has transformed because of the resilience and hope of the Vietnamese community. I am proud to cosponsor a House Resolution in remembrance of the sacrifices of the brave Vietnamese people who were forced to flee their homeland and to commemorate the Fall of Saigon.

As we begin AAPI Heritage Month, I am also proud to introduce a House Resolution recognizing the accomplishments and contributions of over 2 million Vietnamese Americans. The United States is home to the largest number of individuals of Vietnamese descent outside of Vietnam, and I join in representing the largest Vietnamese communities in the nation in Orange County, California.

Today, Vietnamese Americans contribute to American society through their work in business, education, science and technology, engineering, mathematics, literature and the arts, gastronomy, the armed forces, and public service at every level of government.

Vietnamese Americans add to the rich cultural and religious diversity of our nation. As a member of the Congressional Vietnam Caucus, it is critical that we continue to represent and celebrate our Vietnamese families, friends, and neighbors, and recognize their significant contributions to American society.

Today, we remember the sacrifices that Vietnamese immigrants made, and we celebrate their contributions and achievements to our great Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
INFERTILITY AWARENESS WEEK

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2022

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Infertility Awareness Week to salute the parents, doctors, researchers, and others for the extraordinary progress made over the last four decades to help individuals have families who without this progress could not. National Infertility Awareness Week, founded in 1989 by RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association is the largest public awareness campaign that addresses the public health issue of infertility.

Most Americans are not aware that one in eight, or nearly 7.4 million Americans are impacted by the disease of Infertility. The disease affects both men and women and it knows no barriers—it affects individuals of all races, religious backgrounds, and economic statuses.

Since 1978, as a result of extraordinary medical advancements, millions of couples have been able to receive life-affirming treatments to become pregnant. While for most of us having a child is taken for granted it is a painful and devastating struggle for millions of couples throughout the world.

Research scientists have been making significant advancement of Infertility treatments including a procedure that allows young cancer patients to preserve their fertility prior to undergoing lifesaving chemotherapy treatments are incredible. Organizations like RESOLVE, the Military Family Building Coalition, the National Infertility Association, and the Alli-

ance for Fertility Preservation advocate for the millions of individuals and couples in this country who need help to have a family. Ms. Barb Collura, the CEO of RESOLVE, has testified before Congress in support of fertility services for the countless military veterans whose service-related injuries have rendered them infertile. There are also others such as Joyce Reinecke, Executive Director of Alliance for Fertility Preservation and cancer survivor, who has lent her voice on the importance of affordable fertility preservation options for individuals undergoing cancer treatment. As a matter of fact, in the absence of coverage, charitable organizations providing valuable, life-changing, financial assistance the option of having children after surviving cancer might not otherwise be available.

Congress can do more to remove many of the barriers that currently exist for those who experience infertility challenges but want to have a child. And I applaud my colleagues including Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Congresswoman BROWNLEY, Congresswoman DELAURO, Congresswoman STRICKLAND, and Congressman RICK LARSEN for introducing legislation devoted to eliminating obstacles to building families. I also salute the millions of infertility warriors throughout the country and the world, who advocate on behalf of that most precious of gifts, that of family.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
LUKAS KOENIGER ON HIS OFFER
OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND
THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2022

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Lukas Koeniger of Waterville, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Lukas' offer of appointment permits him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2026. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Lukas brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2026. While attending Anthony Wayne High School in Whitehouse, Ohio, Lukas participated in marching band, cross country, and track and field, where he earned a varsity letter. After graduating from Anthony Wayne High School in 2021, Lukas attended the University of Toledo in Toledo, Ohio.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Lukas Koeniger on his offer of appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Lukas will excel during his career at the Air Force Academy, and I

ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2022

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present during Roll Call vote number 131. Had I been present, on Roll Call vote number 131, I would have voted YES.

IN RECOGNITION OF GARDNERS
CANDIES INCORPORATED

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2022

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gardners Candies, a staple of the Central Pennsylvania community, on celebrating one hundred and twenty-five years of operation.

Founded in 1897 by James "Pike" Gardner in Tyrone, Pennsylvania, Gardners Candies began operations in a small store along with a wagon that allowed "Pike" to sell candy throughout the region.

For over a century, Gardners has produced gourmet chocolate including their famous, "Original Peanut Butter Meltaway."

In 2021, Benzel's Pretzels and Gardners Candies entered into an agreement to bring together these iconic brands in the production of Gardners' chocolate covered pretzels.

I'm proud of the family sustaining jobs created by the candy making companies in our community. From producing classic treats to creating quality jobs, Pennsylvania is known the world over for its candies and confectioners, and I am proud to have some of the world's finest right here in our community.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Gardners Candies on this milestone and wish them every continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
TO SUPPORT THE DESIGNATION
OF MAY 7 AS BRAIN DONATION
AWARENESS DAY

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2022

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce a resolution to support designating May 7 as Brain Donation Awareness Day.

Today, brain disorder and diseases have a tremendous impact on individual patients and their families as well as the United States health care system. Approximately 100 million Americans are living with a brain disorder and an additional 1.2 million are diagnosed with adult-onset brain diseases or disorders every year. Brain diseases and disorders cost the

U.S. more than \$1.5 trillion per year, a significant portion of which is paid for by the Medicare program. With an aging population, we can expect to see a continual rise of neurodegenerative diseases in the years to come.

Brain research is key to understanding underlying causes of these conditions. The scientific community has made great strides in recent years, but continued investment is needed. Postmortem brain tissue is an irreplaceable resource in neurological studies. However, communities of color and people experiencing poverty are underrepresented in these studies. Overcoming these disparities is critical to producing research results that have an equitable impact.

Brain donation is separate from the routine organ donation process. Educating the public on the distinctions can lead to increased donation that better reflects our communities.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan resolution.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
OLIVIA ACHENBACH ON HER
OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO AT-
TEND THE UNITED STATES
NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2022

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Olivia Achenbach of Perrysburg, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Olivia's offer of appointment permits her to attend the United States Naval Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2026. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Olivia brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2026. While attending Perrysburg High School in Perrysburg, Ohio, Olivia participated in student government, Environmental Club, and was a member of National Honor Society. Throughout high school, Olivia was involved with soccer, powderpuff football, and earned her varsity letter in basketball. I am confident that Olivia will carry the lessons of her student and athletic leadership to the Naval Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Olivia Achenbach on her offer of appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Olivia will excel during her career at the Naval Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to her as she begins her service to our Nation.

SUPPORTING MOLDOVA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2022

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as the civilized world has been unintentionally unified in opposition to Putin conducting mass murder in Ukraine, Putin has unwittingly unified Republicans and Democrats in America. A clear example is Republican support of an op-ed from the Democrat Washington Post by Josh Rogin "West can't afford to neglect Moldova, because Putin won't" being the lead Opinion April 24th in The State paper of Columbia, South Carolina:

WEST CAN'T AFFORD

As the United States and Europe continue to scramble to help Ukraine defend its territory, preserve its democracy and save its economy, they should keep in mind that Ukraine is not the only country in the region suffering due to Russian President Vladimir Putin's aggression. Next door, the small country of Moldova is appealing to the West for urgent help and long-term partnership. If we turn away from Moldova, again, we will push it into Putin's arms.

"The Russian military aggression in Ukraine is making every single person in Europe feel less secure and is having a negative impact on every single person in Europe," Moldova's foreign minister, Nicu Popescu, told me in an interview last week in Washington. "And of course, this impact is more negative on Moldova, because Moldova is right there."

Popescu's official title is Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, which should tell us something. The new government in Moldova, one of the region's poorest countries, is trying to break a longrunning pattern of political dysfunction, systemic corruption and malign influence coming from Moscow. The December 2020 landslide election of Moldova's first outright pro-Western president, the Harvard-educated former World Bank economist Maia Sandu, presents the best chance yet to move Moldova firmly into the Western camp.

The Moldovan government has always tried to balance its relationships, for understandable reasons. Russia has 1,500 troops occupying the Moldovan breakaway territory of Transnistria and controls Moldova's energy supply. There is still a large pro-Russian constituency in Moldovan politics, business and society.

But the invasion of Ukraine has changed everything in geopolitics, especially for Ukraine's neighbors who now see that "neutrality" does not protect a small country from being viciously attacked on Putin's whim. The Moldovan government has condemned the Russian invasion, even though Putin's retaliation could prove disastrous.

"Moldova is a neutral state, but neutrality only refers to us not participating in military action," Popescu told me. "We're not neutral when it comes to condemning the aggression. We're not neutral when it comes to defending the principles of international law, which must be respected."

The United States and European countries have been paying more attention to Moldova recently. Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited the capital, Chisinau, last month. The United States has given Moldova \$130 million since the Ukraine war started to help with the hundreds of thousands of new refugees spilling over the border.

But that's just a Band-Aid for Moldova's problems.

"We need to ensure socioeconomic stability. We are severely impacted by the war. We are Ukraine's most fragile neighbor," Popescu said. "We've been coping reasonably well with the humanitarian crisis, the refugee situation and the energy crisis. We've been pursuing reforms. But, it's a difficult region."

The question is whether the West's recent increased attention to Moldova will persist beyond the current crisis. Popescu's visit was framed as a new "strategic dialogue" with the United States, but a similar effort during the Obama administration withered away.

There are several specific things the United States could do to cement its commitment to Moldova's long-term stability and success. The Justice Department could do more to go after Moldova's sanctioned oligarchs and their wealth, especially the ones living in the United States. U.S. organizations should double down on helping Moldova continue its reforms and root out corruption. And the United States can help Moldova diversify its energy supply, diluting Putin's leverage.

And while Moldova isn't seeking military assistance, it has a huge and growing need for help fortifying and managing its borders, including the 863 miles it shares with Ukraine. That's perhaps the most urgent effort, because if Ukraine falls, Moldova could easily be Russia's next target. Would Putin actually invade Moldova and try to topple the prowestern government, as he is attempting to do next door?

"We don't know," Popescu told me. "Our task is to be ready for everything."

In conclusion, I am grateful for the committed service of Mr. Eugen Caras, Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova to the United States of America and United Mexican States.

We stand together to deter war criminal Putin with the courageous people of Ukraine led by President Zelenskyy who has adopted the spirit of the American Revolution "Don't tread on me", "Live Free or Die."

The unity of freedom-loving countries was reinforced by President Salome Zourabichvili of Georgia who I am grateful to meet with today. He has courageously cited that the people of Georgia are 100 percent united in "solidarity with Ukraine."

RECOGNIZING EILEEN RHODES
FOR FORTY YEARS OF OUT-
STANDING SERVICE TO THE
BRUCE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPART-
MENT, AND THE GREAT STATE
OF MICHIGAN

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2022

Mrs. McCLAIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Eileen Rhodes for forty plus years of outstanding service to the Bruce Township Fire Department, and the great state of Michigan.

Eileen has spent more than four decades admirably serving the Romeo/Bruce community. She is a proud graduate of Romeo High School. Eileen started her career as a Bruce Township Firefighter/EMT in the early 80s at a time when few women shared her vision. She